

Boston. March 11<sup>th</sup> 1839.

Dear Deborah,

After I had sent the letter to you to Weymouth I called on Mrs Garrison. I learned from her that Mr. Parker had procured the removal of the names from the request, by so many different statements as there were people to be addressed. She said to some that their conduct was unconstitutional, to others that the object of the meeting was to get Thompson here, & that as he (T) had gone off without paying his debts, the measure was unavailing for, & the meeting had better not be held. Another reason was the expense! (3 \$ 00.) Mrs J. was as might be expected very indignant. Mr & Mrs Johnson passed part of the evening here & Mrs J. gave us an account of the Board meeting. Mary read the 62 Psalm which upon reading will amuse you. They then proved & conned the matter & finally decided that no Board meeting was called for. Mrs Southwick and Mrs Johnson bore a faithful testimony, saying that "what the Board thought was not the question; but did the members of the Soc wish a meeting. Mrs E. R. Davis said she voted for a meeting for she thought if no one else wished for a meeting, yet if Mrs Chapman did she had labored enough in the cause to have one called." Mrs Battelle has left the office of Rec. Sec. & Miss Gould is chosen. Sunday morning I went to Mr Ide's (the Federal St Ch) to hear Mr Charles, & in the afternoon to the 62 Psalm where he preached. His persons were extremely good, but not an allusion to the slave in either prayer or sermon. I left off. Dr Follen March 12. I will take up just where I left off. Dr Follen preached for Dr Channing all day and did very well, though he said nothing special. But he prayed for the oppressed. I had previously been invited to Kenneth's to take tea & pass the night. John James, his mother & Mrs Parker were there to tea & I had considerable talk with the conquering hero. He was very agreeable & pleasant and talked a good deal about the Bates, thinks Elizabeth's match a very good one; he says her engagement has been a source of great improvement, both as to mind and manner as Vanderwey is a very superior person. Esq. Mary Bowditch, her cousin & sister & Henry, all the Adams' & young Dale came in the evening. I liked Esq much better than I had ever done before. He was quite good natured & agreeable. His fiancée looked pretty & smiled duly upon all. The Adams were noxious as usual. I talked somewhat Dr B. about anti slavery and non resistance. He is very favorable to both but there is a spin loose somewhere. He can not reason for any length of time without straying from the point.



I spent the night at H's and came home early in the morning. I found that Fildeth had passed the evening at West St the night before. He was looking so Caroline satise very miserably pale & thin & was hardly able to sit up. No allusion was made by him to his brother's death nor by them. They disputed less than usual & I were more mild in their manners but that was all. - I suppose you may have seen the scandalous report of the Judiciary Committee of the Legislature, touching the Lynn & Dorchester women's petition. On that account Oliver Johnson has got up a petition which his wife has been circulating & called here with & of course all hands signed it. It comes at very bold & asks for the repeal of the laws relative to matrimony on the ground that it is a unconstitutional one as well as utterly repugnant to right and freedom. Mrs Johnson heads it. In the evening came the meeting of the Boston A. S. Society. The Marlboro Chapel was thronged; more than 2000 present & many people of property & standing and many of the legislators. Wendell called the meeting to order & Francis Jackson was chosen to preside. Garrison moved a string of resolutions that were quite useless, as you will see when The Liberator comes out. He made a very few pungent remarks & sat down. Barney followed. He spoke well, but produced no great effect. He bore an honorable testimony on the marriage law however. Wendell came next & his speech was beautiful - just the thing; almost as fine as his state house speech. He tore the Legislature all to pieces, then ground them to atoms then strewed them on the waters. He came out with the outside of the colour law & denominated Lincoln as only fit for the representative of scoundrels & licentious profligates, incapable of appreciating or understanding such hearts as those of the women of Lynn, answering with "a fool born just" the reasoning he could confute in no other way. Stanton finished which was rather of a failure as his speech in the first part was an old one, & in the latter part all want & dishonesty. I think Phillips' previous flight had disheartened him, & moreover, he must have felt how he was looked upon by the faithful. Mary Robbins who called here this morning, says that the town is convulsed with rage at last night's proceedings. The Legislators are ready to Lynch Wendell. This morning Sarah Barker was to appear before a Committee of



the Legis lecture, as Minot has managed to have such a Committee appointed, on the ground, that the petition of the women of Dorchester was forgery. Sarah has been in perfect anguish. The amount of the story is that Sarah under a misapprehension placed the names of Mrs Sandford & Mrs Spaulding to a petition and that the Sandfords as might be expected from clerical appellants made an uproar about it & that Minot got hold of it & scoured the town of Dorchester making mischief. Sarah was cited to appear before the Committee & she came to Maria to get her to go to be there. We thought her a clerical person, yet as she had the truth on her side, we thought it our duty to stand by her. So on this morning at 9, Wendell & Collins & Mary & Maria & I proceeded to the State House where was assembled the Committee, Sarah & about 20 more women and a room filled with men. Minot bore down upon Sarah with great venom, but felt somewhat bad when he found the Abolitionists made common cause with Sarah, Bradburn & Wendell both appeared well. Wendell acted as Sarah's counsel & Bradburn as a witness. The matter was put off till Friday to give Sarah time to a chance to have Sarah present. Every body seems to think that Sarah only made an unfortunate mistake, whereas Minot tries to prove intentional forgery. - Wednesday afternoon. I am waiting for the stage and hope to get this letter to you done before it comes. I thought it but right to have Maria show a little civility to Bradburn & I therefore determined to have last night "a hangout." I went for Birney but he had gone to Newburyport. We asked Garrison & Johnson but they did not come, so we had only Messrs Bradburn & Collins and James & Mary Robbins. We had a very agreeable evening and I liked Bradburn very much, tho' he is so deaf that I have to holler as loud as I ever did to Mrs Sampson. He is thorough, & he appeared wonderfully delighted - March 16. Saturday evening. I had reached that point when the stage came to the door. At this distance of time, I cannot exactly tell what delighted Bradburn but guess it was Maria. I called the morning I came out of town at the Sargents & the Chapmans. I was so sick all the way out to Weymouth that I had a miserable time. We found all well at our house. Ma looking unusually well. Hervey is, & says he is still poorer. But looks pretty well. But I was



much troubled to find them all so miserably at Grounds.  
Aunt Mary does not look so very bad, but she seems all  
pulled down; she says she has had a lung fever & now  
her side is very sore & lame, she has a bad cough & is  
very weak. Still I hope she will get up her spirits &  
then her health. But I feel discouraged about Aunt Pansy  
cilla. She is not an atom better & I am fearful some-  
times that they never will all be well again.

Miss Deborah Weston.

Care of James H. Howland Esq.

New Bedford

Mass.



March 11th 1839  
N. B.

My dear & cannot wait to say. No objection about.  
A little bright at New Haven in which after  
a heavy frost the trunk is much. You can  
see the horse station on column in the Post office  
Maria has had a letter from G. Smith who is here.  
Aunt Mary is, I think, better. Priscilla is so.

I some expect Henry or women or somebody out to morning  
if so his my will go back with them. Little Henry seems  
better already. I shall go in town a week from Monday  
to the meeting. I am very anxious to hear from you.  
Hope you or Caroline or somebody will be over to make  
some arrangement for Lucia that she may go to school  
as it seems a pity to waste time. Lucia, by the way,  
desires you to give her your monsieur de laine. I transcribe  
her most request and you can do about it as you see fit.  
I shall hope to have a letter from you tomorrow by the way  
of Boston. Yrs ever  
a. w. w.